

Serial No. 10/753,737

PATENT
Docket No. 54317-025904**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-24. (Canceled)

Claim 25. (Original) A leaf spring element having a first lateral portion, a second lateral portion and a central portion acting as a spring and located between the first lateral portion and the second lateral portion,

each of the first and second lateral portions having a substantially rectangular shape and comprising a slanted leg, each slanted leg comprising a first leg portion and a second leg portion, the first leg portion substantially lying in a first plane, the second leg portion substantially lying on a second plane different from the first plane, the second leg portion ending with a hollow section, each of the first and second lateral portions comprising a first corner substantially facing the central portion;

the central portion being a bent central portion having a substantially trapezoidal shape and having a first slanted edge and a second slanted edge;

the leaf spring element further comprising first and second cut sections separating the central portion from the first and second lateral portions respectively, each of the first and second cut sections having a distal end and a proximate end, the distal end being located between the first or second slanted edge and the first corner of the first and second lateral portions.

Claim 26. (Original) The leaf spring element of claim 25, wherein the second plane is substantially perpendicular to the first plane.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) ~~The leaf spring element of claim 25,~~ A leaf spring element having a first lateral portion, a second lateral portion and a central portion acting as a spring and located between the first lateral portion and the second lateral portion,

each of the first and second lateral portions having a substantially rectangular shape and comprising a slanted leg, each slanted leg comprising a first leg portion and a second leg portion, the first leg portion substantially lying in a first plane, the second leg portion substantially lying

Serial No. 10/753,737

PATENT
Docket No. 54317-025904

on a second plane different from the first plane, the second leg portion ending with a hollow section, each of the first and second lateral portions comprising a first corner substantially facing the central portion:

the central portion being a bent central portion having a substantially trapezoidal shape and having a first slanted edge and a second slanted edge:

the leaf spring element further comprising first and second cut sections separating the central portion from the first and second lateral portions respectively, each of the first and second cut sections having a distal end and a proximate end, the distal end being located between the first or second slanted edge and the first corner of the first and second lateral portions,

wherein each of the first and second lateral portions comprises a second corner and a third corner, distal to the central portion, each of the first and second lateral portions comprising a first tooth located adjacent the second corner and a second tooth located adjacent to the third corner, the first and second teeth located in a third plane and the first and second lateral portions located in a fourth plane different from the third plane.

Claim 28. (Currently amended) The leaf spring element of claim 27, A leaf spring element having a first lateral portion, a second lateral portion and a central portion acting as a spring and located between the first lateral portion and the second lateral portion

each of the first and second lateral portions having a substantially rectangular shape and comprising a slanted leg, each slanted leg comprising a first leg portion and a second leg portion, the first leg portion substantially lying in a first plane, the second leg portion substantially lying on a second plane different from the first plane, the second leg portion ending with a hollow section, each of the first and second lateral portions comprising a first corner substantially facing the central portion:

the central portion being a bent central portion having a substantially trapezoidal shape and having a first slanted edge and a second slanted edge:

the leaf spring element further comprising first and second cut sections separating the central portion from the first and second lateral portions respectively, each of the first and second cut

Serial No. 10/753,737

PATENT
Docket No. 54317-025904

sections having a distal end and a proximate end, the distal end being located between the first or second slanted edge and the first corner of the first and second lateral portions.

wherein the third plane is substantially perpendicular to the fourth plane.

Claim 29. (Original) A process for manufacturing a leaf-spring element comprising: annealing a material; cutting the annealed material; bending the cut annealed material; and heat treating the bent cut annealed material.

Claim 30. (Original) The process of claim 29, wherein the leaf spring element is the leaf spring element of claim 25.

Claim 31. (Original) A hinging assembly comprising the leaf spring element according to claim 25 and a hinge pin allowing connection of the leaf spring element with an item.

Claim 32. (Original) An item comprising the hinging assembly of claim 31.

Claims 33-73. (Canceled)